

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for producing protein-coated polystyrene microparticles comprising the steps of:
  - (a) combining a suspension of uncoated microparticles with a protein, the protein being a partner of a bioaffinity binding pair and having a size from 10 nm to 300 nm, the ~~suspension~~ combination comprising a buffer and having a pH of ~~10.0 to 12.5~~ 10.5 to 12.5,
  - (b) incubating the combination from (a) for a period of time whereby the protein is coated ~~by adsorption~~ onto the microparticles by adsorption, and
  - (c) separating the non-adsorbed protein from the protein-coated microparticles.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the protein ~~is in a~~ has been polymerized ~~from~~ by chemical treatment.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the protein is a ~~polymerized~~ streptavidin which has been polymerized by chemical treatment.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microparticles have a magnetizable core.
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)